Tri-Star

- Tri-Star passes Justice Dept. muster
- 'TV-Cable Week' goes under
- Franchise storm brews in Philadelphia
- British cable: more questions than answers

CableVision

The news and features weekly of the cable television industry September 26, 1983 $3.00

C8920-2 10/4/83

MAN ON THE STREET
Consumers talk

PLUS Clustering at Heritage

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CableVision | September 26, 1983. Volume 9, Number 4

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VBPA

CAST '83 opens in U.K.

Potential industry suppliers met with potential operators at CAST '83 in Birmingham, England, with conference speakers calling for quality programming and admitting that many questions about the new industry are still up in the air. **Leading the week, pages 18-21.**

Conflict in Philly

A storm brews in Philadelphia as Mayor Green picks three companies to wire three of the city's four quadrants. In each case, the mayor's pick is different than the firms recommended by the City Council late last month. **Leading the week, pages 18-21.**

Warner, New York Times link

Warner Communications and The New York Times Co. form a joint venture to produce and distribute informational programming by satellite to cable systems. **Leading the week, pages 18-21.**

CNN live from Russia

Cable News Network scores an impressive coup with live coverage of the unprecendented press conference held by Soviet military leaders in the wake of the shooting down of Korean Air Lines flight 007. **Leading the week, pages 18-21.**

'Follies' seeks sponsorship

Cable industry leaders saw themselves parodied and satirized as New York's Women In Cable chapter presented its second annual "Follies" last week. Now the players hope to secure corporate sponsorship for a return engagement at the upcoming Atlantic Show. **Leading the week, pages 18-21.**

Silent Network to launch

The Silent Network will start nationwide programming for deaf and hearing-impaired households via cable next January. **Leading the week, pages 18-21.**

Lobbying war breaks out

As final preparations were being made for introduction of a House companion to the S.66 bill, a lobbying war broke out between the cable industry and its opponents. **Leading the week, pages 18-21.**

Tackling PPV distribution

Sports View, a new Nashville programmer, anxiously awaits NCAA approval to begin pay-per-view distribution of nine-game package of Southeast Conference football league. **Page 25.**

Pubs pasting up posters

Manhattan Cable TV distributes sports programming calendars to bars and taverns as part of a marketing effort to entice more businesses to sign up. **Page 57.**

Creating new environment

Cautious enthusiasm and reserved optimism best describes the prevailing mood that set the tempo for the Great Lakes Expo as speakers sought solutions to problems facing PPV, sports and systems serving high-unemployment areas. **Page 59.**

Holding the line in Atlanta

Despite lower attendance and the concomitant resignation of the Maryland/Delaware Cable Television Association from the SCTA, the Eastern Show captured the attention of industry members with seminars addressing concerns of small and large operators alike. **Page 63.**

Copyright push urged

Panel discussion at Eastern Show entreats cable industry to speak out in favor of congressional copyright reforms. **Page 65.**

About the cover

Denver's 16th Street Mall was the setting for many of our man on the street interviews featured in this week's *Plus*. Earl V. DeWald photographed the scene.

This week in PLUS

At Heritage, the concept of clustering goes beyond just grouping systems; it includes grouping resources company-wide. Rod Thole, Heritage senior vice president of operations, talks with *CableVision Plus* about the methods that the MSO is using to keep costs where it would like them to be. . . Consumers usually think that they know it all, but when it comes to cable, they can be pretty far off. When we talked to the man on the street in Denver, we found that out of his mouth often came real misconceptions. As Mile Hi Cablevision continues to wire the city, some of these potential customers may be in for a real surprise when they discover what they actually get—and don't get—for their money each month. Pages 33-56.

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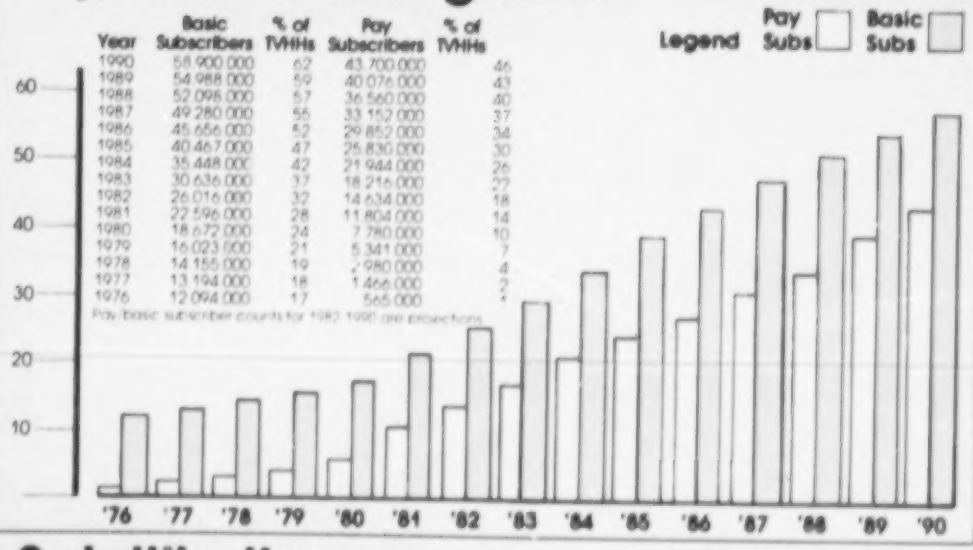
Cable stats

Pay/basic cable growth

Source: ICR, Cable Information Service—a Titsch Communications division

Year	Basic Subscribers	% of TVHHs	Pay Subscribers	% of TVHHs
1990	58,900,000	62	43,700,000	46
1989	54,988,000	59	40,076,000	43
1988	52,096,000	57	36,560,000	40
1987	49,280,000	56	33,152,000	37
1986	45,656,000	52	29,852,000	34
1985	40,467,000	47	25,830,000	30
1984	35,448,000	42	21,944,000	26
1983	30,636,000	37	18,216,000	22
1982	26,016,000	32	14,634,000	18
1981	22,596,000	28	11,804,000	14
1980	18,672,000	24	7,780,000	10
1979	16,023,000	21	5,341,000	7
1978	14,155,000	19	2,980,000	4
1977	13,194,000	18	1,466,000	2
1976	12,094,000	17	565,000	*

Pay/basic subscriber counts for 1982-1990 are projections.



Cable barometer

Television households (TVHH) 83,300,000
Homes passed by cable (HP) . 52,333,336
Percent of TVHH passed by cable 62.7%
Basic cable subscribers . 29,060,756
Percent of TVHH with basic cable 34.5%
Pay cable subs 17,308,666
Percent of TVHH with pay cable 20.5%
Percent of HP with pay cable 33.1%
Percent of basic subs with pay cable .. 59.6%

Figures are as of Aug. 31, 1983. The percent of TVHH with basic cable as of 5/31/83 should have read 34.4%.

Satellite lineup

Satcom III-R (RCA Americom)

	Transponder
ACSN—The Learning Channel	16
AP News Cable	6
ARTS (Hearst/ABC)	1
Bonneville's Easy Listening (audio)*	3
C-SPAN	19
Cable Health Network	17
CBN Cable Network	5
Cable News Network	14
CNN Headline News	15
Cinemax (East)	20
(West)	23
Daytime (Hearst/ABC)	22
Dow Jones Cable News (text)	
(United Video)	3
(Southern Satellite Systems)	6
EPG (United Video/text)	3
ESPN	7
Eternal Word	18
HBO (East)	24
(West)	13
HTN	16
Lifestyle (United Video/audio service)	3
Moody Bible (United Video/audio service)	3
The Movie Channel (Warner Amex)	5
MSN—The Information Channel	22
MTV	11
National Jewish Television	16
Nickelodeon	1
PTL	2
Quotrader (text)*	6
Reuters News View (text)	18
(SSS)	6
Satellite Radio Network (audio service)	2
SCAN (audio service)	6
Spotlight	4
Showtime (East)	12
(West)	10
UPI Cable News (text)	6
UPI Customized Cable News (text)	6
USA Network	9
(during blackout)	22
The Weather Channel	21
WFMT (United Video/audio service)	3
WGN (United Video)	3
WTBS (SSS)	6

Satcom IV (RCA Americom)

	Transponder
American Network	19
Biznet (Viacom)	15
Bravo (ESPN)	2
Eros*	
ESPN (West)	6
Financial News Network (CBS)	2
Home Sports Entertainment-Dallas	4
Home Sports Entertainment-Houston	11
KKGO-FM	17
National Christian Network (daytime)	7
Playboy (evenings)	12
QUBE (Warner Amex)	11
SCAN	3
SPN	3
Time Teletext (HBO/Text)	18
Trinity	17

Satcom V—Launched 4th quarter 1982, no cable.
Satcom I-R—Launched April 7, 1983, no national programming services.
Satcom II-R—Launched Sept. 8, 1983, no cable.

Westar IV (Western Union)

	Transponder
AmSat	5D
AmSat/Digital Traffic	6X, 7D
Bonneville Satellite	3D, 12X
Cable News Network News Feeds	8X
Hughes Television Network	1X, 2X, 7X
SIN	3X
World Communications	6D, 9X, 10D

Westar V (Western Union)

	Transponder
The American Network	10X
AmSat/DCM	7D
ARTS (Hearst/ABC)	12D
BET	12X
Daytime (Hearst/ABC)	12D
The Disney Channel (World Communications)	5X, 6X
Dow Jones	2X, 3X
Group W Satellite Corp.	11D, 12D
Madison Square Garden (Hughes TV Network)	1D
Nashville Network (Group W)	9D
Satellite News Channel (Group W)	8D
Incoming Feeds	9X
Regional Feeds	4X, 8X
National Feeds	6D
SelecTV (World Communications)	3D
Spotlight (West)	11D
WOR-TV (Robert World Co.)	2D

Comstar D-4 (AT&T/GTE)

	Transponder
Country Music Television	9H
ESPN	7V
ON TV	6V, 4H

Galaxy I (Hughes Communications)

	Transponder
GalaVision (SIN)	20
HBO	1,3,17,21,23
SIN	6
Times Mirror	5,10
Turner Broadcasting	7,18
Viacom	14,15
Westinghouse	2,8,12,22

Galaxy II—Projected launch Sept. 28, 1983, no cable.
Galaxy III—Projected launch Summer 1984, 24 transponders, 4/6 GHz.

Spacenet I (Southern Pacific Satellite Co.)—Projected launch April 1984, 16 transponders 4/6 GHz., 6 transponders 12/14 GHz. Transponders reserved: SSS (3), Pop Network (3), SIN (1½), Landmark Communications (1), Bonneville International (2½), Southern Baptist Convention (1), Radio and TV Commission (also Southern Baptist Convention) (1), United Video (1), Midwest Communications (1), Double-B Enterprises (1), Rainbow Communications (1), NBC (1), Cox Communications (1), Bilzink (1/2), Southern Pacific Communications Co. (3½).
Spacenet II—Projected launch August 1984, 16 transponders 4/6 GHz., 6 transponders 12/14 GHz.
Spacenet III—Presently being built.

Note: A company name in parentheses following a service or network designates the transponder owner. *Temporarily lost transponder space.
Source: ICR, Cable Information Service—a Titsch Communications division.

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Cable stats

Top 100 MSOs

Rank	Multiple system operator	Basic subs	
1	Tele-Communications Inc.[1]	2,500,000	(9/83)
2	American Television and Communications Corp.	2,248,525	
3	Group W Cable	1,812,000	(7/83)
4	Cox Cable Communications Inc.	1,136,788	
5	Warner Amex Cable	1,340,294	(7/83)
6	Storer Cable	1,288,873	(7/83)
7	Times Mirror Cable Television	844,600	
8	Newhouse Broadcasting[2]	751,625	
9	Continental Cablevision	664,000	
10	Viacom Cablevision	661,982	
11	United Cable Television Corp.	596,076	(5/83)
12	Sammons Communications Inc.	554,488	(7/83)
13	Rogers Cablesystems	475,000	(9/83)
14	TeleCable Corp.	360,091	
15	Heritage Communications	342,377	
16	UA Cablesystems Corp.	325,000	(9/83)
17	Cablevision Systems Development	316,000	(5/83)
18	Capital Cities Cable Inc.	314,283	(11/82)
19	General Electric Cablevision	314,000	
20	Comcast Cable Communications	304,000	
21	Liberty Communications	263,992	(7/83)
22	Wometco Communications	246,609	
23	Jones Intercable Inc.	237,330	
24	Tele-Media	232,500	(4/83)
25	Daniels & Associates Inc.	229,278	(7/83)
26	TCA Group	222,512	
27	Maclean Hunter Cable TV Ltd.	215,667	(7/83)
28	Multimedia Cablevision Inc.[3]	212,085	
29	Century Communications Corp.	198,000	
30	Service Electric Cable TV Inc.	189,500	
31	Colony Communications Inc.	170,861	(4/83)
32	Central Cable Television Co.	162,156	(5/83)
33	Prime Cable Corp.	146,788	
34	Rollins Cable Vue Inc.	143,100	(5/83)
35	Western Communications	142,464	(8/83)
36	Cablentertainment Inc.	141,491	(7/83)
37	McDonald Group	139,585	
38	Tribune Cable Communications	138,425	
39	Cable America	129,761	
40	Sutton Capital Group[4]	120,514	(3/83)
41	Communications Service Inc.	120,371	(3/83)
42	Cable Vision Industries	114,884	(7/83)
43	Harron Communications Corp.	114,631	
44	Midwest Video Corp.	114,615	(12/81)
45	Adams-Russell Telecommunications	110,208	(7/83)
46	Midcontinent Cable Systems[5]	104,340	(8/83)
47	McCaw Communications	102,200	(7/83)
48	American Cablesystems Inc.	102,180	
49	Buckeye Cablevision	101,105	(5/83)
50	Adelphia Communications	98,371	(7/83)
51	Communications Systems Inc.	93,059	
52	Armstrong Utilities	89,633	(5/83)
53	Harris Cable Corp.	87,800	
54	Falcon Communications	86,000	(7/83)
55	Multi-Channel TV Cable Co.	84,000	(8/83)
56	Southmedia Co.	83,736	
57	Televents Inc.	81,100	(8/83)
58	Summit Communications	77,552	(7/83)
59	Ultracom Inc.	77,000	(8/83)
60	King Videocable Co.	75,724	(5/83)
61	US Cable Corp.	75,000	
62	McClatchy Newspapers	74,197	(8/83)
63	Palmer Communications Inc.	73,813	(4/83)
64	Greater Media	73,191	(7/83)
65	National Telecommunications Co.	71,450	(4/83)
66	Perry Cable TV Corp.	71,292	(5/83)
67	The Essex Group	70,124	
68	WEHCO Video Inc.	69,183	(5/83)
69	Booth Communications	66,900	(7/83)
70	American Cable Television Inc.	66,000	(4/83)
71	Acton Corp.	65,181	
72	Lenfest Group	64,089	(8/83)
73	Total TV Inc.	61,531	(5/83)
74	Omega Communications	60,000	(12/82)
75	Consolidated Cable Systems	58,300	
76	Pencor Services Inc.	56,488	
77	Wabash Cablevision	53,650	(7/83)
78	Clear TV Cable Corp.	53,387	(7/83)
79	Marsh Media	52,244	(4/83)
80	Omni Cable TV Corp.	50,130	
81	The Daily Press	49,000	(7/83)
82	Susquehanna Broadcasting	45,565	(8/83)
83	Selkirk Communications	45,540	(5/83)
84	Sonic Cable TV	45,444	
85	Phoenix Communications	43,500	(8/83)
86	Hellicon Corp.	42,146	(7/83)
87	Communicom	41,000	(7/83)
88	Dorsey Cablevision	39,400	(9/83)
89	Matrix Enterprises	37,928	
90	Joseph Gans	37,000	
91	Harte-Hanks Communications	36,831	(7/83)
92	United Video Management	36,500	(5/83)
93	Simmons Communications	35,000	(8/83)
94	Combined Cable Corp.	34,732	(7/83)
95	Magada Corp.	32,800	(7/83)
96	National Cablesystems Inc.	30,439	
97	United Broadcasting Co.	30,000	(3/83)
98	Wisconsin Cablevision & Radio	29,190	
99	Southern Cablevision	29,138	(8/82)
100	MultiVision Group	28,471	(7/83)

Note: Subscriber counts are as of 6/83 unless otherwise noted.
[1] Number is an estimate.
[2] Includes Metrovision, NewChannels, Vision Cable.
[3] Includes Tar River Communications.
[4] Includes owned and partially owned systems.
[5] Includes systems owned and with controlling interest.
Source: ICR, Cable Information Service—a Titsch Communications division.

Top 100 systems

Rank	Location	Operator	Basic Subs	
1	San Diego, Calif.	Cox Cable	225,000	
2	Woodbury (Long Island), N.Y.	Cablevision Systems	192,000	(4/83)
3	Houston, Texas	Warner Amex	184,900	(7/83)
4	Manhattan, N.Y.	ATC	176,700	
5	San Antonio, Texas	Rogers UA	166,745	(5/83)
6	West Orange, N.J.	Macleon Hunter	152,148	(7/83)
7	Wayne, N.J.	Rogers UA	120,394	(5/83)
8	Cincinnati area, Ohio	Warner Amex	110,500	(7/83)
9	Tulsa, Okla.	United Cable TV	106,834	(5/83)
10	Audubon, N.J.	NVT Cable	105,332	
11	Rochester, N.Y.	ATC	101,775	
12	Erie County, N.Y.	Prime Cable	100,287	
13	San Jose, Calif.	Gill Industries	97,850	
14	Baltimore County, Md.	Cattec Cablevision	92,337	(7/83)
15	Austin, Texas	ATC	92,250	
16	Tidewater, Va.	Cox Cable	91,393	(12/82)
17	Honolulu, Hawaii	ATC	88,325	
18	Seattle, Wash.	Group W Cable	87,618	
19	Central Islip (Long Island), N.Y.	Viacom Cablevision	87,121	
20	Orlando, Fla.[1]	ATC	87,000	
21	Memphis, Tenn.	ATC	86,350	
22	Jefferson Parish/Kenner, La.	Cox Cable	82,962	(12/82)
23	Jacksonville, Fla.	ATC	82,375	
24	Toledo, Ohio	Buckeye Cablevision	82,059	(5/83)
25	Manhattan, N.Y.	Group W Cable	81,464	
26	Grand Rapids, Mich.	General Electric	76,500	
27	San Diego, Calif.	ATC	74,850	
28	Wilmington, Del.	Rollins Cable	74,800	(5/83)
29	Greater San Juan, Puerto Rico	Harris Cable	74,300	
30	San Francisco, Calif.	Viacom Cablevision	73,069	
31	Wichita, Kan.	Multimedia Cablevision	72,541	
32	Dallas, Texas	Warner Amex	70,900	(7/83)
33	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Warner Amex	69,900	(7/83)
34	Englewood, Colo.	United Cable	69,522	(5/83)
35	Richmond/Henrico County, Va.	Continental	69,340	(7/83)
36	Flint, Mich.	Comcast	65,000	
37	Baton Rouge, La.	Daniels & Associates	63,743	(7/83)
38	Seattle, Wash.	Viacom Cablevision	63,522	
39	South Bend, Ind.	Heritage	62,745	
40	Melbourne, Fla.[1]	ATC	62,000	
41	Columbus, Ohio	Warner Amex	60,290	(7/83)
42	Buffalo, N.Y.	Cablescope	60,082	(4/83)
43	Santa Monica, Calif.	Group W Cable	58,817	
44	Jefferson County, Ky.	Storer	58,700	(7/83)
45	Louisville, Ky.	Times Mirror	57,876	
46	Boston Complex, Mass.	Warner Amex	57,864	(7/83)
47	Akron, Ohio	Warner Amex	57,177	(7/83)
48	Charlotte, N.C.	ATC	57,100	
49	Dade/Broward Counties, Fla.	Storer	57,000	(7/83)
50	Snohomish County, Wash.	Viacom Cablevision	56,382	
51	Santa Barbara, Calif.	Cox Cable	56,167	(12/82)
52	Suburban Tacoma, Wash.	Cable TV of Puget Sound	56,123	
53	El Paso, Texas	Group W Cable	55,711	
54	Pompano Beach, Fla.	American Video Corp.	55,565	
55	Monterey, Calif.	Western Communications	55,483	(8/83)
56	Kansas City, Mo.	ATC	55,275	
57	Allentown, Pa.	Twin County Cable	55,000	(5/83)
58	Columbus, Ohio	Coaxial Communications	54,500	
59	Harrisburg, Pa.	Sammons	54,500	
60	Cleveland, Ohio	Viacom Cablevision	54,457	
61	Sarasota, Fla.	Storer	53,400	(7/83)
62	Phoenix, Ariz.	American Cable Television	53,157	
63	Binghamton, N.Y.	NewChannels	53,016	(8/83)
64	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Group W Cable	52,336	
65	Allentown, Pa.	Service Electric	51,000	
66	Des Moines, Iowa	Heritage	50,732	(5/83)
67	New Haven, Conn.	Storer	50,500	(7/83)
68	Jackson, Miss.	ATC	50,425	
69	Canton, Ohio	Warner Amex	50,423	(7/83)
70	Hartford, Conn.	Times Mirror	50,200	
71	San Diego County, Calif.	Times Mirror	50,067	
72	Indianapolis, Ind.	Wabash Cablevision	50,000	(7/83)
73	Port Arthur, Texas	Liberty	49,320	
74	Shreveport, La.	ATC	48,700	
75	Reading, Pa.	ATC	48,550	
76	Charleston, S.C.	Storer	48,400	(7/83)
77	Peoria, Ill.	General Electric	48,300	(4/83)
78	Chattanooga, Tenn.	South Media	47,791	
79	New Britain, Conn.	United Cable	47,655	(5/83)
80	San Rafael/Marin County, Calif.	Viacom Cablevision	47,203	
81	Atlanta, Ga.	Cable America	46,917	
82	Bridgeport, Conn.	Southern Connecticut	46,111	
83	Westchester County, NY	Rogers UA	45,181	(5/83)
84	Birmingham, Ala.	ATC	45,025	
85	Albany, N.Y.	ATC	44,850	
86	Eugene, Ore.	Group W Cable	44,598	
87	Omaha, Neb.	Cox Cable	44,275	(12/82)
88	Winston-Salem, N.C.	Summit Communications	44,063	(7/83)
89	Albuquerque, N.M.	Tribune Co. Cable	44,000	
90	Moline/Quint Cities, Ill.	Cox Cable	43,834	(12/82)
91	Bakersfield/Kern County, Calif.	Warner Amex	43,824	(7/83)
92	Worcester, Mass.	Greater Media	43,798	(7/83)
93	Oklahoma City, Okla.	Cox Cable	43,793	(12/82)
94	DeKalb County, Ga.	Cable America	44,790	
95	Scranton, Pa.	Vertis Cable TV Corp.	43,746	(4/83)
96	Lincoln, Neb.	MetroVision	43,398	(7/83)
97	Fayetteville, N.C.	ATC	43,375	
98	Spokane, Wash.	Cox Cable	43,257	(12/82)
99	Lansing, Mich.	Continental	43,200	(3/83)
100	Oak Park, Ill.	Cablevision Systems	43,000	(5/83)

Note: Subscriber counts are as of 6/83 unless otherwise noted.
[1] Figures are estimates.
Source: ICR, Cable Information Service—a Titsch Communications division.